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(54) **TOOL CARRIER UNIT OF A TOOL MAGAZINE**

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Y10T 483/1845; Y10T 483/1855; B23Q
3/15525; B23Q 3/1554

USPC 483/23, 37, 63, 64
See application file for complete search history.

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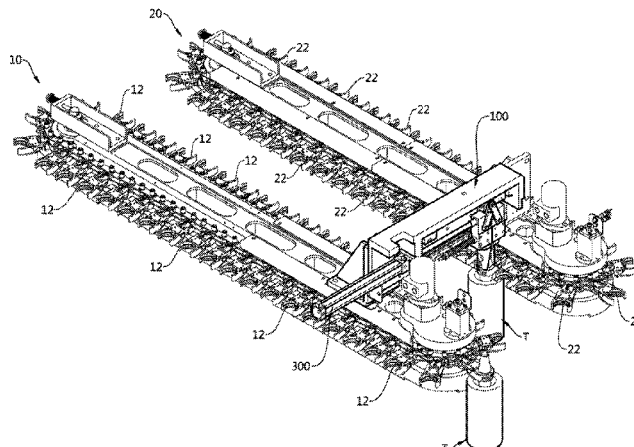
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure relates to a tool carrier unit of a tool magazine. The tool carrier unit of a tool magazine according to the present invention includes: a body frame installed across a first tool magazine and a second tool magazine; a clamping unit disposed at one side of the body frame and configured to clamp a tool accommodated in any one of the first tool magazine and the second tool magazine; an LM unit (liner motion unit) disposed at one side of the body frame and configured to guide a movement of the clamping unit; an actuator disposed at one side of the body frame and configured to move the clamping unit; and an unclamping unit disposed at the body frame and configured to unclamp the tool when the clamping unit reaches the first tool magazine or the second tool magazine.

3 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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Fig.1

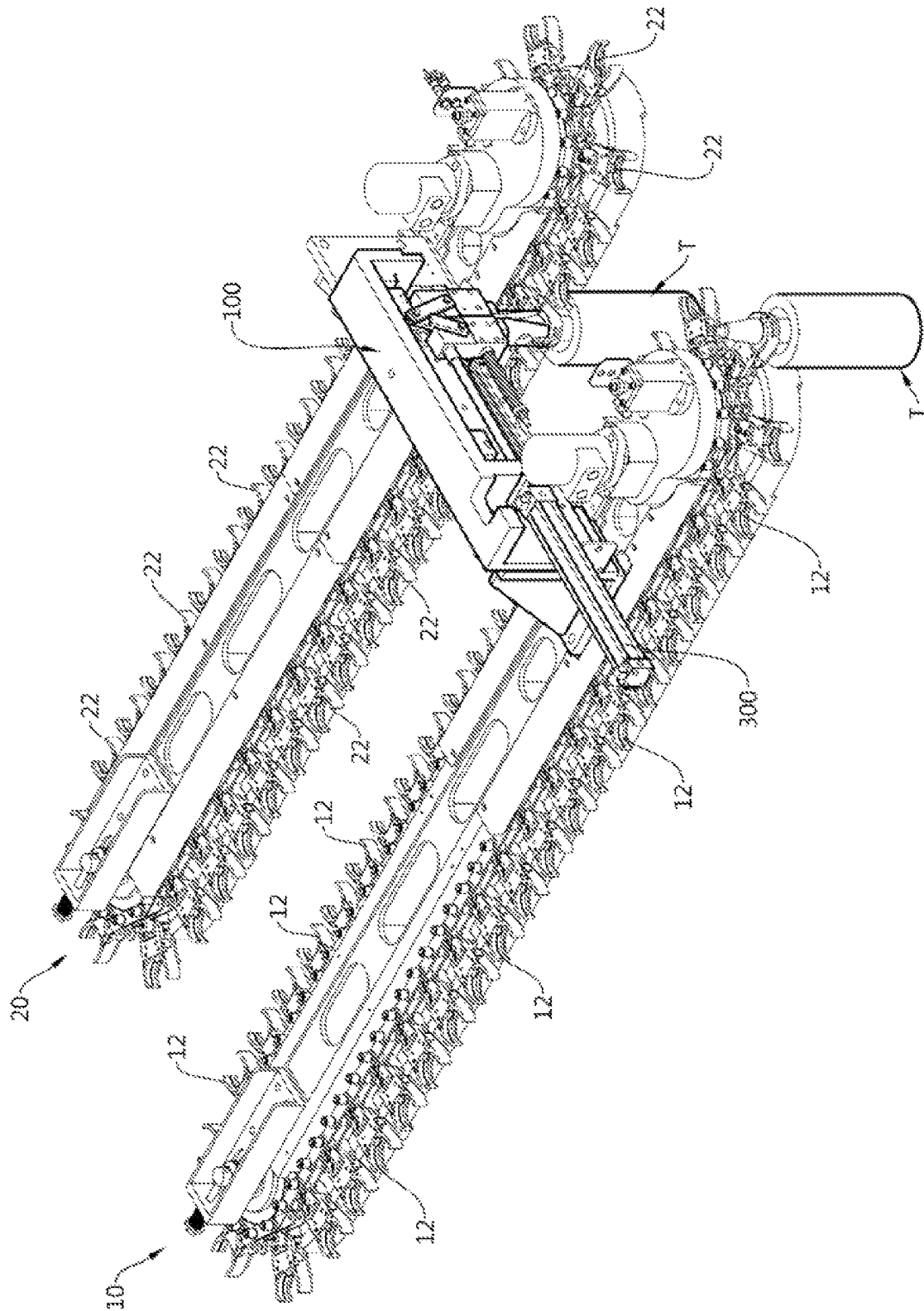


Fig.2

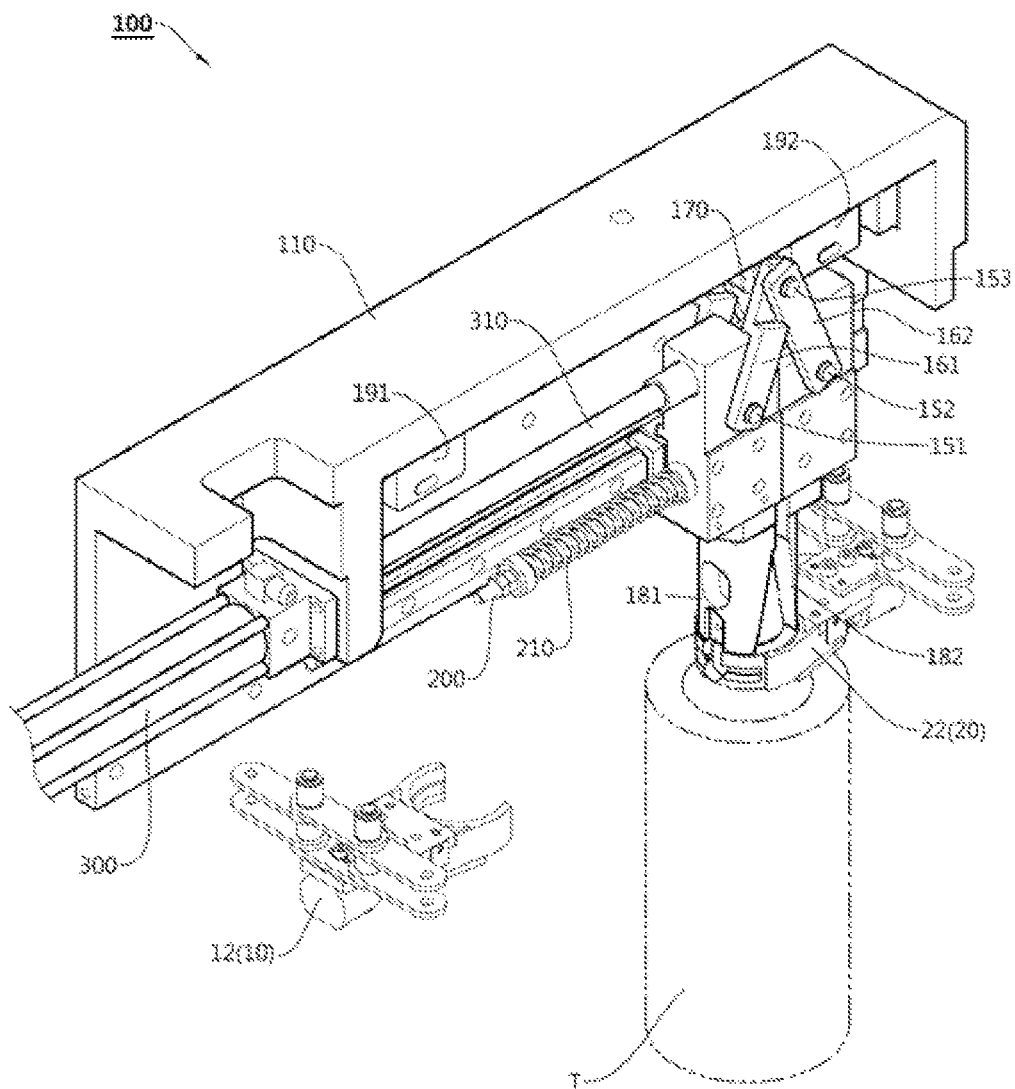


Fig.3

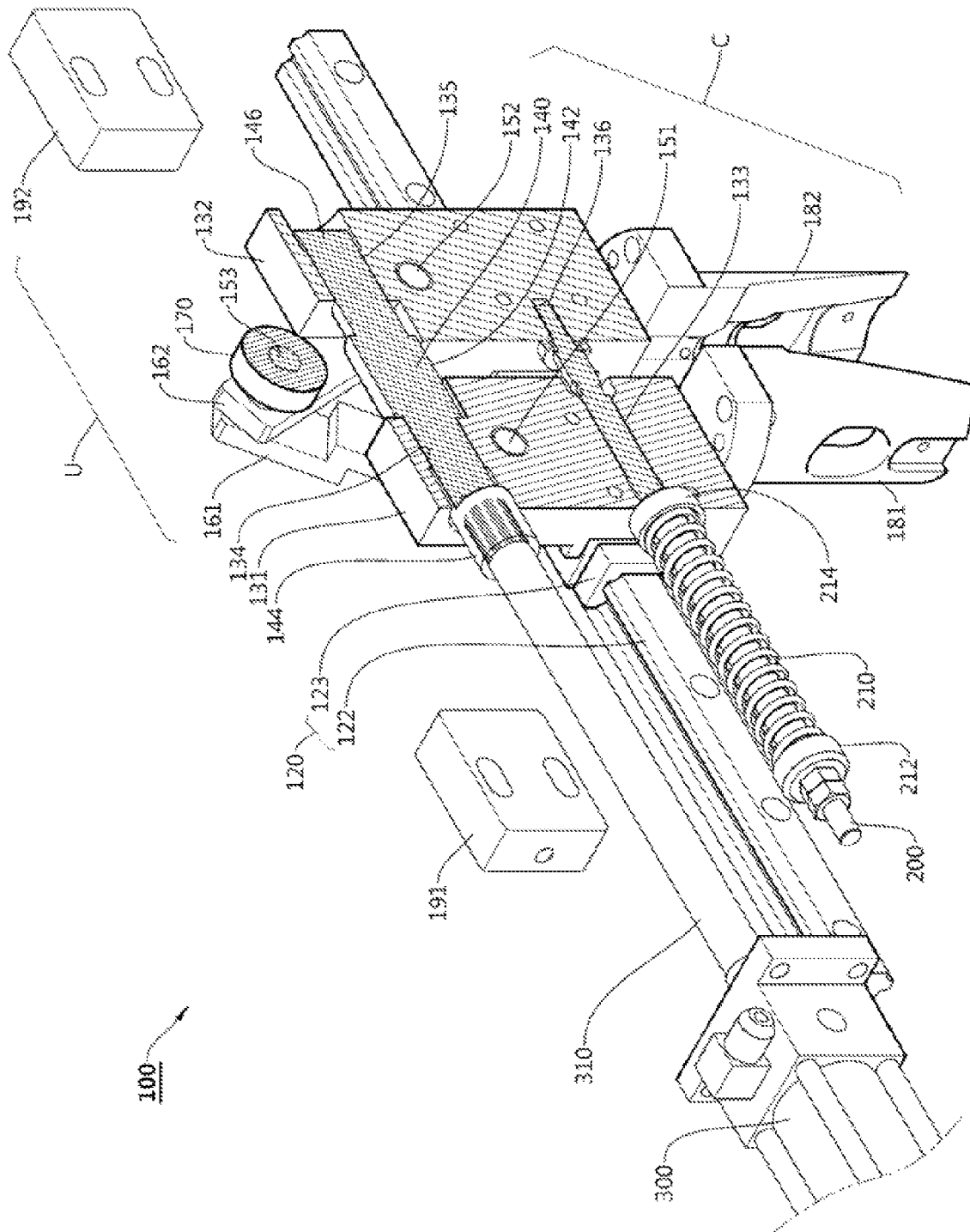


Fig.4

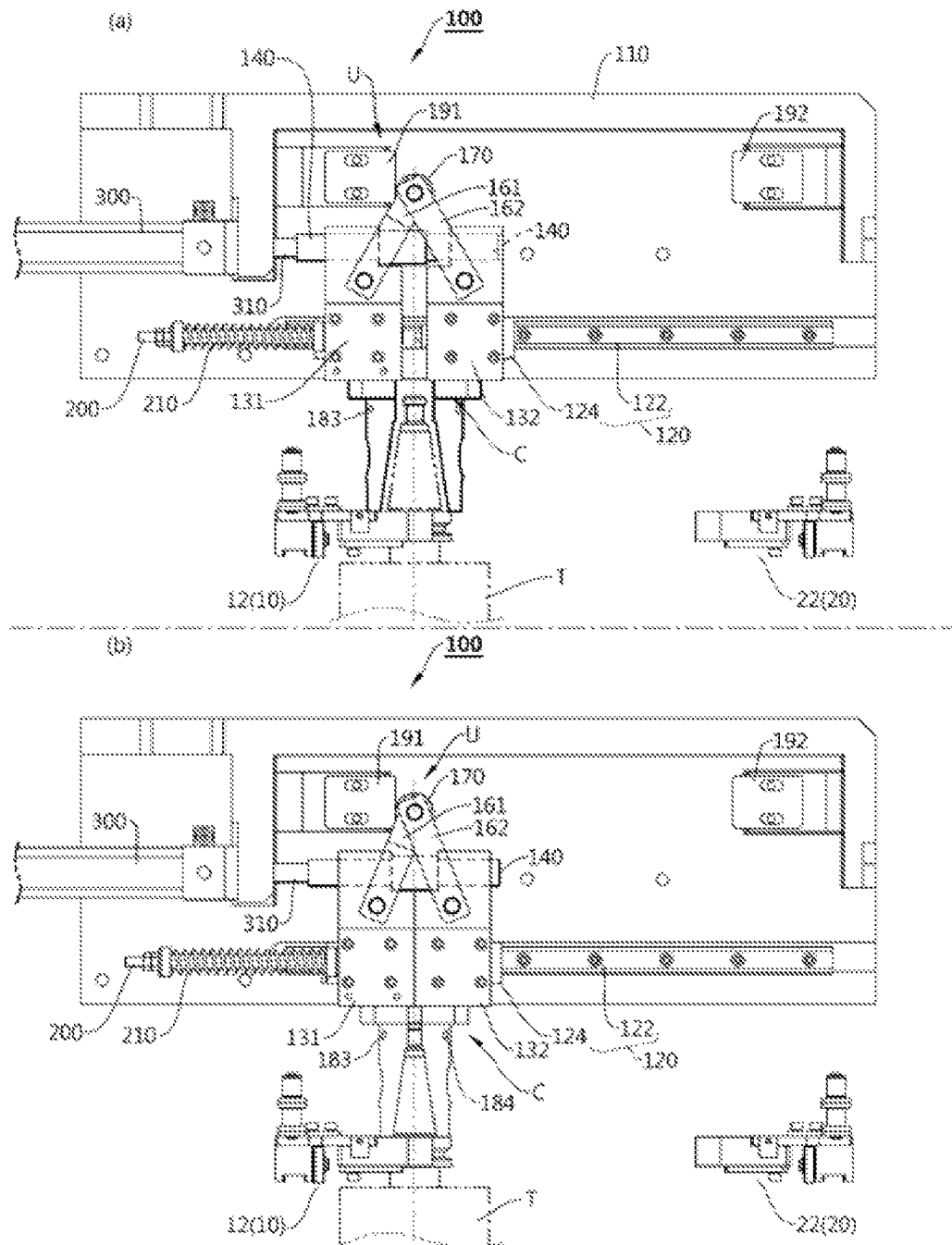


Fig.5

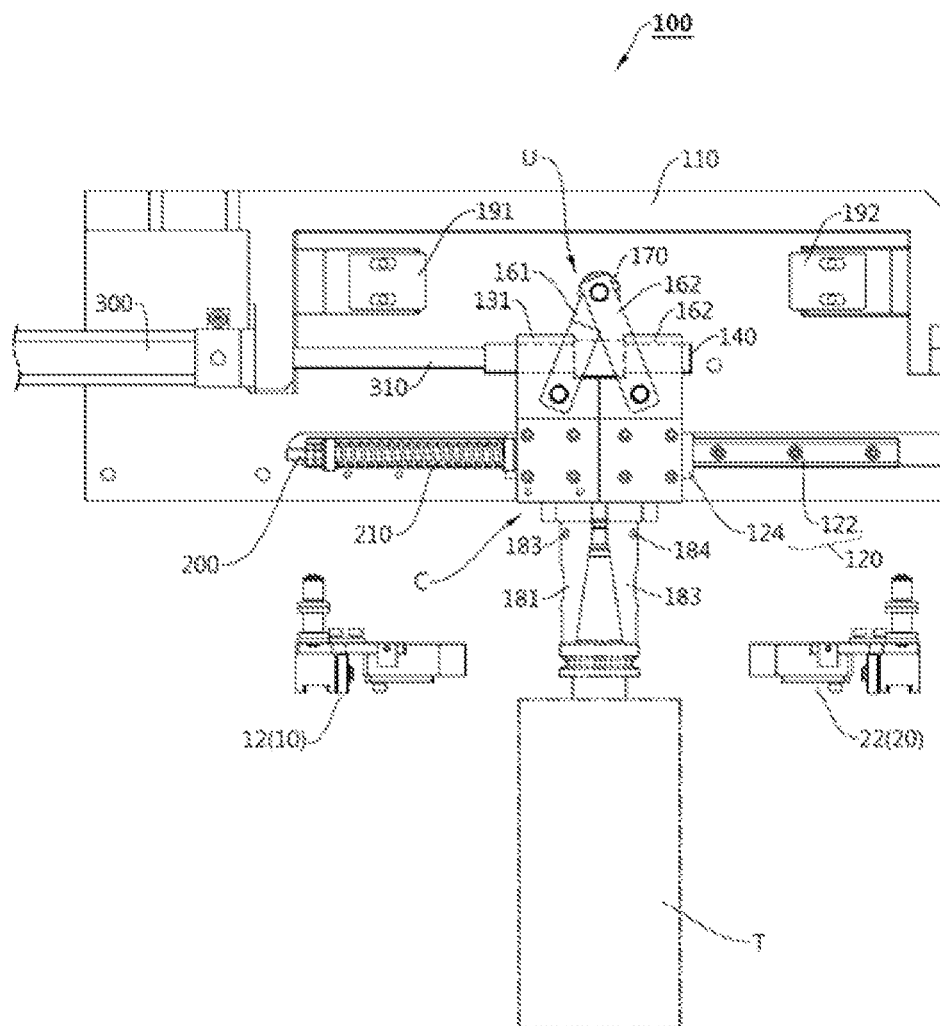
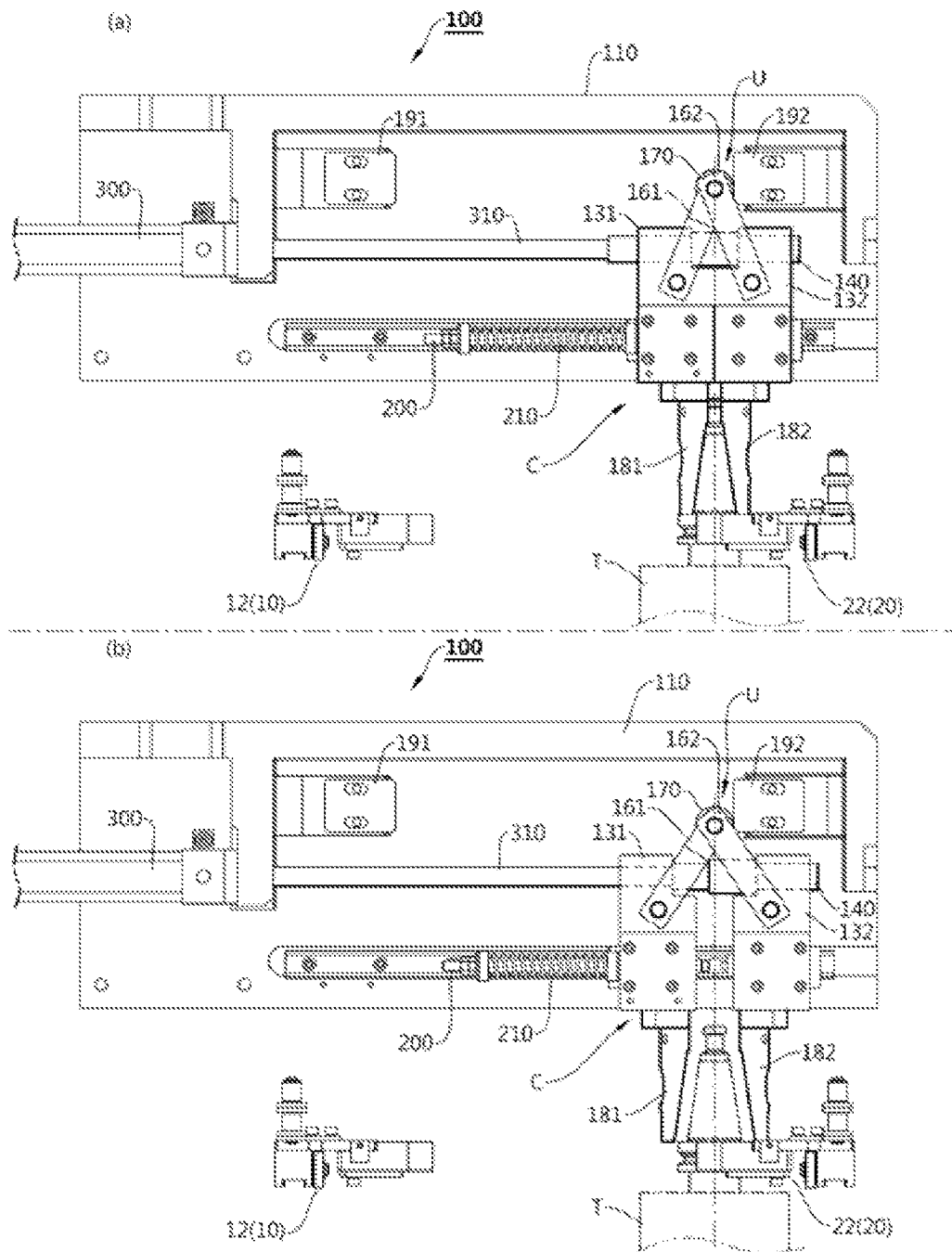


Fig.6



1

TOOL CARRIER UNIT OF A TOOL MAGAZINE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a Section 371 National Stage Application of International Application No. PCT/KR2011/009489, filed Dec. 8, 2011 and published, not in English, as WO2012/081860 on Jun. 21, 2012.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure relates to a tool carrier unit of a tool magazine, and more particularly, to a tool carrier unit of a tool magazine, which transfers tools between one tool magazine and the other tool magazine.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

In general, a tool magazine and an automatic tool changer are provided at a numerical control multi-tasking machine tool, various types of tools are accommodated in the tool magazine, and the automatic tool changer changes tools between a spindle and the tool magazine in accordance with a command.

Meanwhile, as processing shapes of work pieces become complicated and varied, tools having various shapes are required accordingly, but there is a problem in the related art in that there is a limitation in the number of tools that may be accommodated in the tool magazine, and therefore there is a limitation to process work pieces in various shapes.

Alternatively, a specific tool may be required to perform a special processing, but when the specific tool is not accommodated in the tool magazine, there is a problem in that it is inconvenient to operate the tool in a temporary manner by manually replacing and mounting the required specific tool when the tool magazine is stopped.

The discussion above is merely provided for general background information and is not intended to be used as an aid in determining the scope of the claimed subject matter.

SUMMARY

This summary and the abstract are provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the Detailed Description. The summary and the abstract are not intended to identify key features or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor are they intended to be used as an aid in determining the scope of the claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, the present disclosure has been made in an effort to overcome a technical problem, and an object of the present disclosure is to provide a tool carrier unit of a tool magazine, capable of enlarging the tool magazine so as to use more tools, and transferring tools between one tool magazine and the other tool magazine.

Technical problems of the present disclosure are not limited to the technical problems described above, and technical problems that are not described will be clearly understood by a person skilled in the art from the description below.

A tool carrier unit of a tool magazine according to the present disclosure for achieving the technical problem includes: a body frame installed across a first tool magazine and a second tool magazine; a clamping unit disposed at one side of the body frame and configured to clamp a tool accommodated in any one of the first tool magazine and the second

2

tool magazine; an LM unit (linear motion unit) disposed at one side of the body frame and configured to guide a movement of the clamping unit; an actuator disposed at one side of the body frame and configured to move the clamping unit; and an unclamping unit disposed at the body frame and configured to unclamp the tool when the clamping unit reaches the first tool magazine or the second tool magazine.

In addition, the clamping unit may include: a first clamp block installed on the LM unit to be linearly moved, and having a first slide hole formed at one side thereof, and a first jaw installed at a lower side thereof; a second clamp block installed on the LM unit to be linearly moved, and having a second jaw installed at a lower side thereof to face the first jaw; a clamp shaft penetrating the first slide hole, and having an end portion fixed to the second clamp block; and a clamp spring installed on the clamp shaft, having one end portion that is in contact with the first clamp block, and the other end portion that is fixed to an end portion of the clamp shaft, and applying restoring force in a direction in which the first clamp block and the second clamp block have the most narrow gap between each other.

In addition, the unclamping unit may include: a first clamp block installed on the LM unit to be linearly moved, and having a second slide hole formed at one side thereof; a second clamp block installed on the LM unit to be linearly moved, and having a third slide hole formed at one side thereof; first and second shaft pins installed in the first and second clamp blocks, respectively, in a direction orthogonal to a direction in which the first and second clamp blocks are linearly moved; a first link having one side axially coupled to the first shaft pin; a second link having one side axially coupled to the second shaft pin; a third shaft pin axially coupled to the other end portions of the first link and the second link; a roller installed on the third shaft pin; first and second stoppers formed at both sides of the body frame, respectively, with which the roller comes into contact, and on which the roller slides; and a shaft **140** having one side fastened to a rod of the actuator to push the first clamp block or the second clamp block in a direction in which the rod is moved.

In addition, the shaft **140** may have a first small diameter portion **144** and a second small diameter portion **146** formed, respectively, at both sides of a large diameter portion **142**, the first small diameter portion **144** may penetrate the second slide hole **134**, the second small diameter portion **144** may penetrate the third slide hole **135**, and the first small diameter portion **144** may have one side fastened to the rod **310** so that the large diameter portion **142** pushes the first clamp block **131** when the actuator **300** performs a contraction operation, and the large diameter portion **142** pushes the second clamp block **132** when the actuator **300** performs an extension operation.

Details of other exemplary embodiments are included in the detailed description and the drawings.

The tool carrier unit of the tool magazine according to the present disclosure, which is configured as described above, may transfer the tool between one tool magazine and the other tool magazine such that the tool accommodated in the tool magazine disposed at a position far from the spindle may be provided to the spindle.

In addition, the tool carrier unit of the tool magazine according to the present disclosure may additionally mount a new tool magazine even to the existing numerical control multi-tasking machine tool which is used by including a

single tool magazine, and accordingly, work pieces having more varied and complicated shapes may be processed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1 and 2 are views for explaining a tool carrier unit of a tool magazine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 3 is a partially cross-sectional perspective view illustrating main parts extracted from the tool carrier unit of the tool magazine according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIGS. 4 to 6 are views for explaining an operation of the tool carrier unit of the tool magazine according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, in which

FIG. 4 is a view for explaining operations of clamping and unclamping a tool at a first tool magazine side,

FIG. 5 is a view for explaining an example in which a tool is moved between the first tool magazine and a second tool magazine, and

FIG. 6 is a view for explaining operations of clamping and unclamping a tool at the second tool magazine side.

DESCRIPTION OF MAIN REFERENCE NUMERALS OF DRAWINGS

- 10, 20: First and second tool magazines
- 12, 22: First and second tool gripper units
- C: Clamping unit
- U: Unclamping unit
- 100: Tool carrier unit
- 110: Body frame
- 120: LM unit (linear motion unit)
- 122: LM guide
- 123, 124: First and second LM blocks
- 131, 132: First and second clamp blocks
- 133, 134, 135: First, second, and third slide holes
- 136: Fixing portion
- 140: Shaft
- 142: Large diameter portion
- 144, 146: First and second small diameter portions
- 151, 152, 153: First, second, and third shaft pins
- 161, 162: First and second links
- 170: Roller
- 181, 182: First and second jaws
- 191, 192: First and second stoppers
- 200: Clamp shaft
- 210: Clamp spring
- 212, 214: First and second spring pockets
- 300: Actuator
- 310: Rod

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The advantages and characteristics of the present disclosure and methods for achieving the same will become clear from the exemplary embodiments set forth in detail below with reference to the attached drawings.

Like reference numerals represent like elements throughout the specification.

Hereinafter, a tool carrier unit of a tool magazine according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure will be described with reference to FIG. 1.

FIG. 1, which is an accompanying drawing, is a view for explaining a tool carrier unit of a tool magazine according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

As illustrated in FIG. 1, a tool magazine may include first and second tool magazines 10 and 20 which are installed in parallel in plural numbers, and a tool carrier unit 100 according to the exemplary embodiment of the disclosure may be installed across the first tool magazine 10 and the second tool magazine 20.

Meanwhile, the first tool magazine 10 may be a component that is already installed at a numerical control multi-tasking machine tool, the second tool magazine 20 may be a component that is newly and additionally installed, and therefore a tool T accommodated in the first tool magazine 10 is accommodated or drawn out by the existing automatic tool changer (ATC) that is operated, thereby changing tools with a spindle.

In addition, the tool T accommodated in the second tool magazine 20 may be transferred to the first tool magazine 10 by the tool carrier unit 100 according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, and as a result, the tool T, which has been accommodated in the second tool magazine 20, may be provided to the spindle by the automatic tool changer provided at the first tool magazine 10.

The first and second tool magazines 10 and 20 have first and second tool gripper units 12 and 22 provided on chains, in which the chains travel along rails formed on an outer circumference of a tool magazine frame, and the first and second tool gripper units 12 and 22 are on standby in a state in which the tool T is accommodated in the first and second tool gripper units 12 and 22 or in a vacant state in which the tool T is not accommodated, and as a result, the specific first and second tool gripper units 12 and 22 change tools in a state of reaching a tool change position.

The tool change position may be a position where a clamping unit C of the tool carrier unit 100 according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure may reach the first and second tool magazines 10 and 20 and clamp/unclamp the tool T.

A configuration of the tool carrier unit 100 according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure will be described in more detail with reference to FIGS. 2 and 3 which are accompanying drawings.

FIG. 2, which is an accompanying drawing, is a view for explaining the tool carrier unit of the tool magazine according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, and FIG. 3 is a partially cross-sectional perspective view illustrating main parts extracted from the tool carrier unit of the tool magazine according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

As illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, the tool carrier unit 100 has an LM unit (linear motion unit) 120 installed at one side of a body frame 110, the clamping unit C is slidably installed on the LM unit 120, an actuator 300 is installed on the body frame 110, and the actuator 300 moves the clamping unit C.

Meanwhile, as illustrated in FIG. 1, the body frame 110 is disposed in a direction across the first and second tool magazines 10 and 20, and fixed by a known fixing means such as a fixing bracket, a bolt, and a nut.

The LM unit 120 includes an LM guide 122, and first and second LM blocks 123 and 124, and the clamping unit C is installed on the first and second LM blocks 123 and 124.

That is, the LM unit 120 allows straightness to be guaranteed when the clamping unit C is moved, and supports the weight of the clamping unit C, thereby allowing the clamping unit C to be able to be stably moved.

An unclamping unit U is provided at one side of the clamping unit C, and when the clamping unit C is moved by driving the actuator 300 and reaches the tool change position, the tool T is unclamped so as to be freely released by the unclamping unit U at the clamping unit C.

The clamping unit C refers to a configuration of clamping the tool T by allowing a pair of first and second clamp blocks **131** and **132** to be tightened by a clamp spring **210**.

In more detail, the first clamp block **131** is installed on the first LM block **123** of the LM unit **120**, and the second clamp block **132** is installed on the second LM block **124** of the LM unit **120**.

In addition, a first slide hole **133** is formed at one side of the first clamp block **131** in a direction parallel to the LM guide **122** of the LM unit **120**, a clamp shaft **200** penetrates the first slide hole **133**, and one end portion of the clamp shaft **200** is fastened and fixed to a fixing portion **136** of the second clamp block **132**.

In addition, the clamp spring **210** is disposed at the clamp shaft **200**, one side of the clamp spring **210** is in close contact with one side surface of the first clamp block **131**, and the other side of the clamp spring **210** is fixed to an outer end portion of the clamp shaft **200**.

That is, the clamp spring **210** applies restoring force in a direction in which the first clamp block **131** and the second clamp block **132** are close to each other.

Meanwhile, first and second spring pockets **212** and **214** are provided on both end portions of the clamp spring **210**, so as to prevent the clamp spring **210** from being arbitrarily moved away and a posture of the clamp spring **210** from being distorted, thereby positioning the position of the clamp spring **210** in place.

In addition, first and second jaws **181** and **182** are installed at a lower side of the first and second clamp blocks **131** and **132**, respectively.

The first and second jaws **181** and **182** have an inner side that may be formed in a shape corresponding to a shape of a tool shank so as to grip the tool shank of the tool T.

In addition, first and second sensors **183** and **184** are installed at one side of the first and second jaws **181** and **182**, respectively, so as to confirm whether or not the tool T is present.

That is, when a clamp command is executed, an error signal may be generated when the tool T is not present inside the clamping unit C.

The unclamping unit U includes partial constituent elements of the clamping unit C.

In more detail, a second slide hole **134** is formed at one side of the first clamp block **131**, a third slide hole **135** is formed at one side of the second clamp block **132**, and first and second shaft pins **151** and **152** are installed in the first and second clamp blocks **131** and **132**, respectively, in a direction orthogonal to a direction in which the first and second clamp blocks **131** and **132** are linearly moved.

In addition, a first link **161** is axially coupled to one side of the first shaft pin **151**, a second link **162** is axially coupled to one side of the second shaft pin **152**, and a third shaft pin **153** is axially coupled to the other end portions of the first link **161** and the second link **162**.

In addition, a roller **170** is installed on the third shaft pin **153**, first and second stoppers **191** and **192** are disposed at both sides of the body frame **110**, respectively, and the roller **170** may come into contact with and slide on the first and second stoppers **191** and **192**.

In addition, a shaft **140** is installed in the first and second clamp blocks **131** and **132**, a large diameter portion **142** is formed at a medium portion of the shaft **140**, and first and second small diameter portions **144** and **146** are formed at both sides of the large diameter portion **142**, respectively.

The first small diameter portion **144** penetrates the second slide hole **134**, the second small diameter portion **144** pen-

etrates the third slide hole **135**, and one side of the first small diameter portion **144** is fastened to a rod **310** of the actuator **300**.

That is, when the actuator **300** is extended or contracted, the rod **310** is linearly moved, and at this time, the large diameter portion **142** pushes the first clamp block **131** or the second clamp block **132** along a direction in which the rod **310** is moved.

Meanwhile, the first and second stoppers **191** and **192** may be integrally provided with the body frame **110**, or alternatively, may be provided as separate components.

Particularly, when the first and second stoppers **191** and **192** are provided as separate components, a position where the first and second stoppers **191** and **192** are installed on the body frame **110** may be minutely changed, and thereby the tool change position with the tool gripper units **12** and **22** of the first and second tool magazines **10** and **20** may be minutely adjusted.

Hereinafter, an operation will be described with reference to FIGS. **4** to **6** that are accompanying drawings.

FIGS. **4** to **6** are views for explaining an operation of the tool carrier unit of the tool magazine according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, in which FIG. **4** is a view for explaining operations of clamping and unclamping the tool at the first tool magazine side, FIG. **5** is a view for explaining an example in which the tool is moved between the first tool magazine and the second tool magazine, and FIG. **6** is a view for explaining operations of clamping and unclamping the tool at the second tool magazine side.

The clamping unit C may be on standby at the tool change position of any one of the first tool magazine **10** and the second tool magazine **20**, and the clamping unit C is on standby in an unclamped state in which the clamping unit C is spread by the unclamping unit U.

FIG. **4(a)**, which is an accompanying drawing, illustrates a state in which the clamping unit C is unclamped at the first tool magazine **10** side, and as the actuator **300** is maximally contracted to pull the rod **310**, and the rod **310** is pulled, the rod **310** pulls the shaft **140** in the left direction of the drawing, and thereby the first clamp block **131** is pulled, however because the first clamp block **131** is connected to the first link **161**, the roller **170** installed on an upper side of the first link **161** is lowered by being carried by the first link **161** without being moved in a direction in which the rod **310** is moved.

Thereafter, as the roller **170** is lowered, the second link **162** moves the second clamp block **132** in a direction opposite to a direction in which the first clamp block **131** is pulled, and as a result, the first clamp block **131** and the second clamp block **132** are spread.

As described above, as the first and second clamp blocks **131** and **132** are spread, the first and second jaws **181** and **182** are spread such that the tool T is freely moved between the first jaw **181** and the second jaw **182**.

Meanwhile, the large diameter portion **142** of the shaft **140** is maintained to be in close contact with the first clamp block **131**, and maintained to be spaced apart from the second clamp block **132**.

Thereafter, when a tool change command is executed, the selected tool T is selected at the first tool magazine **10** and then moved to the tool change position, and thereafter, the actuator **300** performs an extension operation.

FIG. **4(b)**, which is an accompanying drawing, illustrates a state in which the actuator **300** clamps the tool T by being extended from a state of being maximally contracted.

That is, when the rod of the actuator **300** is moved to the right when seen from the drawing, the shaft **140** becomes close to the second clamp block **132**, and at this time, the first

7

and second clamp blocks **131** and **132** become close to each other by restoring force of the clamp spring **210** such that the tool **T** is clamped inside the first and second jaws **181** and **182**.

Meanwhile, while the first and second clamp blocks **131** and **132** become close to each other, the roller **170** is raised by link structures of the first and second links **161** and **162**.

Thereafter, when the actuator **300** continuously and further performs the extension operation, as illustrated in FIG. **5**, the clamping unit **C** is moved in a state of clamping the tool **T**.

Alternatively, when an operation of clamping the tool **T** fails at the first and second jaws **181** and **182** of the clamping unit **C**, the first and second sensors **183** and **184** confirm a state in which the tool **T** is not present, and sound an alarm or send a failure signal to a control panel.

Thereafter, when the actuator **300** continuously and further performs the extension operation, as illustrated in FIG. **6(a)**, the clamping unit **C** is moved from the first tool magazine **10** to the second tool magazine **20**, and a state of clamping the tool **T** is maintained by the clamping unit **C** to the tool change position of the second tool magazine **20**.

Thereafter, when the actuator **300** continuously and further performs the extension operation, as illustrated in FIG. **6(b)**, the unclamping unit **U** is operated, and hereinafter, this operation will be described in more detail.

The shaft **140** pushes the second clamp block **132** by a movement of the rod **310**, and at this time, the roller **170** is not moved anymore because of being in contact with the second stopper **192**, when the second clamp block **132** is further moved, the second link **162** performs an operation of dragging the roller **170** down, and the first link **161**, which is connected to the roller **170** by a link structure, pushes the first clamp block **131** in a direction opposite to a direction in which the second clamp block **132** is moved.

That is, as first and second clamp blocks **131** and **132** are spread, the first and second jaws **181** and **182** are spread so as to unclamp the tool **T**.

Thereafter, the second tool magazine **20** may be driven, and at this time, the tool **T** accommodated in the second tool gripper unit **22** of the second tool magazine **20** does not interfere with the first and second jaws **181** and **182**.

While the description about the operation describes an example in which the tool **T** accommodated in the first tool magazine **10** is transferred to the second tool magazine **20**, in contrast, an operation of transferring the tool **T** at the second tool magazine **20** side to the first tool magazine **10** side will be easily understood by a person skilled in the art, and thereby a detailed description about this operation will be omitted.

As described above, the tool carrier unit **100** of the tool magazine according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure may transfer the tool **T** between one side first tool magazine **10** and the other side second tool magazine **20** such that the tool accommodated in the tool magazine disposed at a position far from the spindle may be provided to the spindle, and in contrast, the tool that has been mounted on the spindle may be accommodated in the first tool magazine **10** or the second tool magazine **20**.

That is, the tool carrier unit **100** according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure may allow a plurality of tool magazines to be provided so that a large number of tools **T** may be provided, and moreover, because various tools **T** may be used, work pieces having more varied and complicated shapes may be processed.

In addition, the tool carrier unit **100** of the tool magazine according to the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure may additionally mount a new tool magazine even to the existing numerical control multi-tasking machine tool

8

which is used by including a single tool magazine, thereby enlarging and installing the tool magazine.

While the exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure has been described with reference to the accompanying drawings, it can be understood by those skilled in the art that the present disclosure may be implemented as other specific forms without changing the technical spirit and essential characteristics thereof.

Accordingly, it should be understood that the exemplary embodiment described above is illustrative and not restrictive in terms of all aspects, the scope of the present disclosure and the description are defined by the appended claims, and it should be interpreted that the meanings and scope of the claims, and all changed or modified forms that derived from equivalent concepts of the claims are included in the scope of the present disclosure.

The tool carrier unit of the tool magazine according to the present disclosure may be used to transfer the tool accommodated in one tool magazine of a plurality of tool magazines to the other tool magazine.

Although the present disclosure has been described with reference to exemplary and preferred embodiments, workers skilled in the art will recognize that changes may be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure.

The invention claimed is:

1. A tool carrier unit of a tool magazine, comprising:

- a body frame installed across a first tool magazine and a second tool magazine;
- a clamping unit disposed at one side of the body frame and configured to clamp a tool accommodated in any one of the first tool magazine and the second tool magazine;
- a linear motion unit disposed at the one side of the body frame and configured to guide a movement of the clamping unit;
- an actuator disposed at the one side of the body frame and configured to move the clamping unit; and
- an unclamping unit disposed at the body frame and configured to unclamp the tool when the clamping unit reaches the first tool magazine or the second tool magazine,

wherein the unclamping unit includes:

- a first clamp block installed on the linear motion unit to be linearly moved, and having a second slide hole formed at one side thereof;
- a second clamp block installed on the linear motion unit to be linearly moved, and having a third slide hole formed on one side thereof;
- first and second shaft pins installed in the first and second clamp blocks in a direction orthogonal to a direction in which the first and second clamp blocks are linearly moved;
- a first link having a first end portion coupled to the first shaft pin;
- a second link having a first end portion coupled to the second shaft pin;
- a third shaft pin coupled to respective second end portions of the first link and the second link;
- a roller installed on the third shaft pin;
- first and second stoppers formed at respective first and second end portions of the one side of the body frame with which the roller comes into contact, and on which the roller slides; and
- a shaft having one side fastened to a rod of the actuator to push the first clamp block or the second clamp block in a direction in which the rod is moved.

2. The tool carrier unit of claim 1, wherein the clamping unit further includes:

the first clamp block having a first slide hole formed at one side thereof, and a first jaw installed at a lower side thereof;

5

the second clamp block having a second jaw installed at a lower side thereof opposing the first jaw;

a clamp shaft penetrating the first slide hole, and having a first end portion fixed to the second clamp block; and

a clamp spring installed on the clamp shaft, having a first end portion that is in contact with the first clamp block, and a second end portion that is fixed to a second end portion of the clamp shaft, and applying restoring force in a direction in which a gap between the first clamp block and the second clamp block narrows.

15

3. The tool carrier unit of claim 1, wherein the shaft has a first small diameter portion and a second small diameter portion formed, respectively, at opposing end portions of a large diameter portion, the first small diameter portion penetrates the second slide hole of first clamp block, the second small diameter portion penetrates the third slide hole of the second clamp block, and the first small diameter portion has one side fastened to the rod so that the large diameter portion pushes the first clamp block when the actuator performs a contraction operation, and the large diameter portion pushes the second clamp block when the actuator performs an extension operation.

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